



BLOCKBUSTER

DC UNIVERSE

REBIRTH

23

NIGHTWING™



RATED T TEEN DCCOMICS.COM AUG 2017

SEELEY
JUNG
SOTOMAYOR



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SEELEY
JUNG
SOTOMAYOR

"MARK DESMOND WAS THE ORIGINAL BLOCKBUSTER."

"SEE, MARK WAS A CHEMIST. A PRETTY DAMN GOOD ONE. BUT HE ALWAYS LACKED IN THE *PHYSICALITY* DEPARTMENT."

"SO HE MADE A GLOWING GREEN CONCOCTION THAT INCREASED HIS STRENGTH."

"PROBLEM WAS, IT ALSO MADE HIM EXTREMELY AGGRESSIVE AND DUMBER THAN A BAG OF HAMMERS."

"EVEN WORSE, IT MADE HIM EASY TO MANIPULATE..."

TIM SEELEY WRITER
MINKYU JUNG ARTIST
CHRIS SOTOMAYOR COLORIST
CARLOS M. MANGUAL LETTERER
MARCUS TO & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR COVER ARTIST
CASEY JONES & HI-FI VARIANT COVER ARTISTS
DAVE WIELGOSZ ASST. EDITOR
REBECCA TAYLOR EDITOR
NIGHTWING CREATED BY MARV WOLFGAN & GEORGE PÉREZ

BLOCKBUSTER

PART TWO



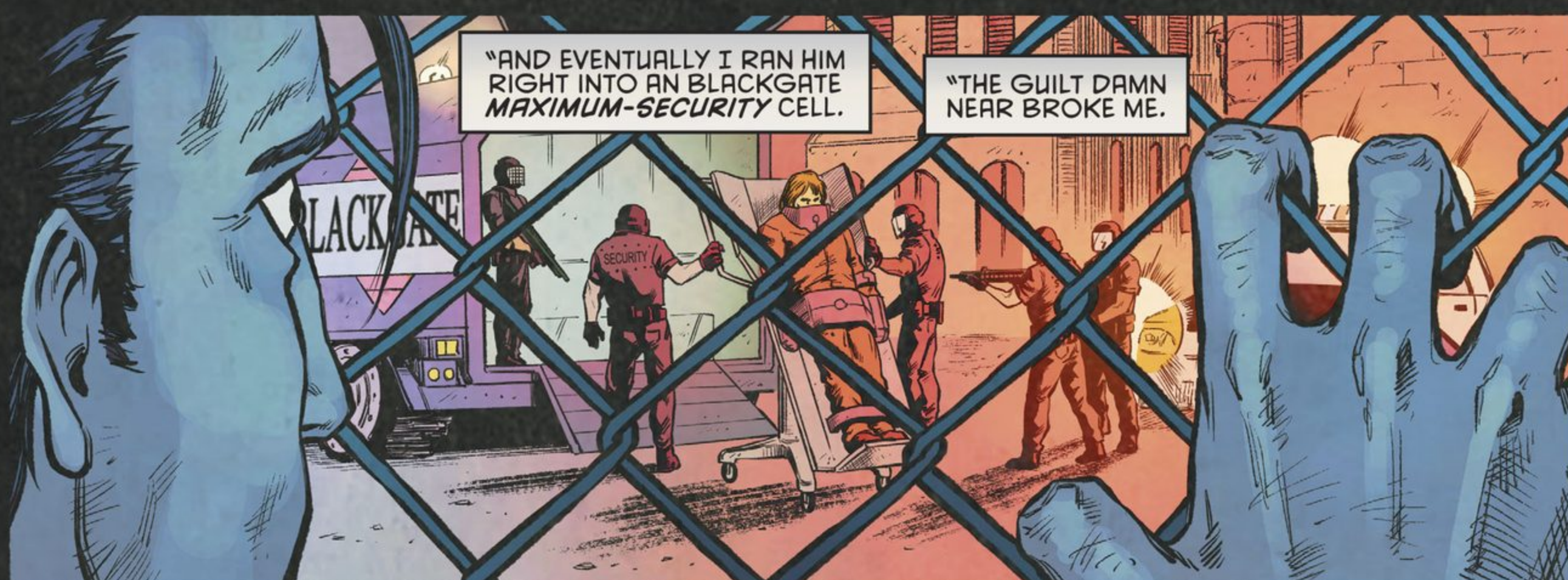
"ESPECIALLY FOR ME..."

"...MARK'S BROTHER, ROLAND."



"I PLAYED THE DEVIL ON HIS SHOULDER, GETTING HIM TO SMASH AND STEAL."

"I BETRAYED HIS TRUST. BROKE HIS HEART. DROVE HIM AWAY."



"AND EVENTUALLY I RAN HIM RIGHT INTO AN BLACKGATE MAXIMUM-SECURITY CELL."

"THE GUILT DAMN NEAR BROKE ME."



"ME 'N' MARK GREW UP HERE. ALL WE HAD WAS EACH OTHER AND *THE BLVD.* MY BEST MEMORIES COME FROM THIS TOWN."

"SO I MOVED BACK."



"I FIGURED I OWED IT TO MARK TO USE HIS WORK TO DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR THE CITY WE USED TO SHARE."



NOW ARE YOU GONNA TAKE MY HAND, *NIGHTWING*, OR AM I GONNA STAND HERE LIKE A PUTZ?



*I take the hand. A hand which just a few moments ago was three times bigger and almost put my teeth through the back of my head.**

**LAST ISSUE --TAY!*

But if Roland wanted me dead, I'd already be a black, blue and red smear in an alley behind a country western bar.

WHEN YOU WERE BLOCKBUSTER... YOU WERE STILL IN *CONTROL*. HOW?

BEFORE MARK GOT HAULED OFF TO THE CLINK, HE DEVELOPED A NEW VERSION OF HIS MUSCLE JUICE. LETS YA KEEP YOUR BRAINS.

WHICH IS NICE, CUZ WE'RE GONNA NEED 'EM. THIS *TIGER SHARK* GUY AIN'T NO SLOUCH.





TIGER SHARK?

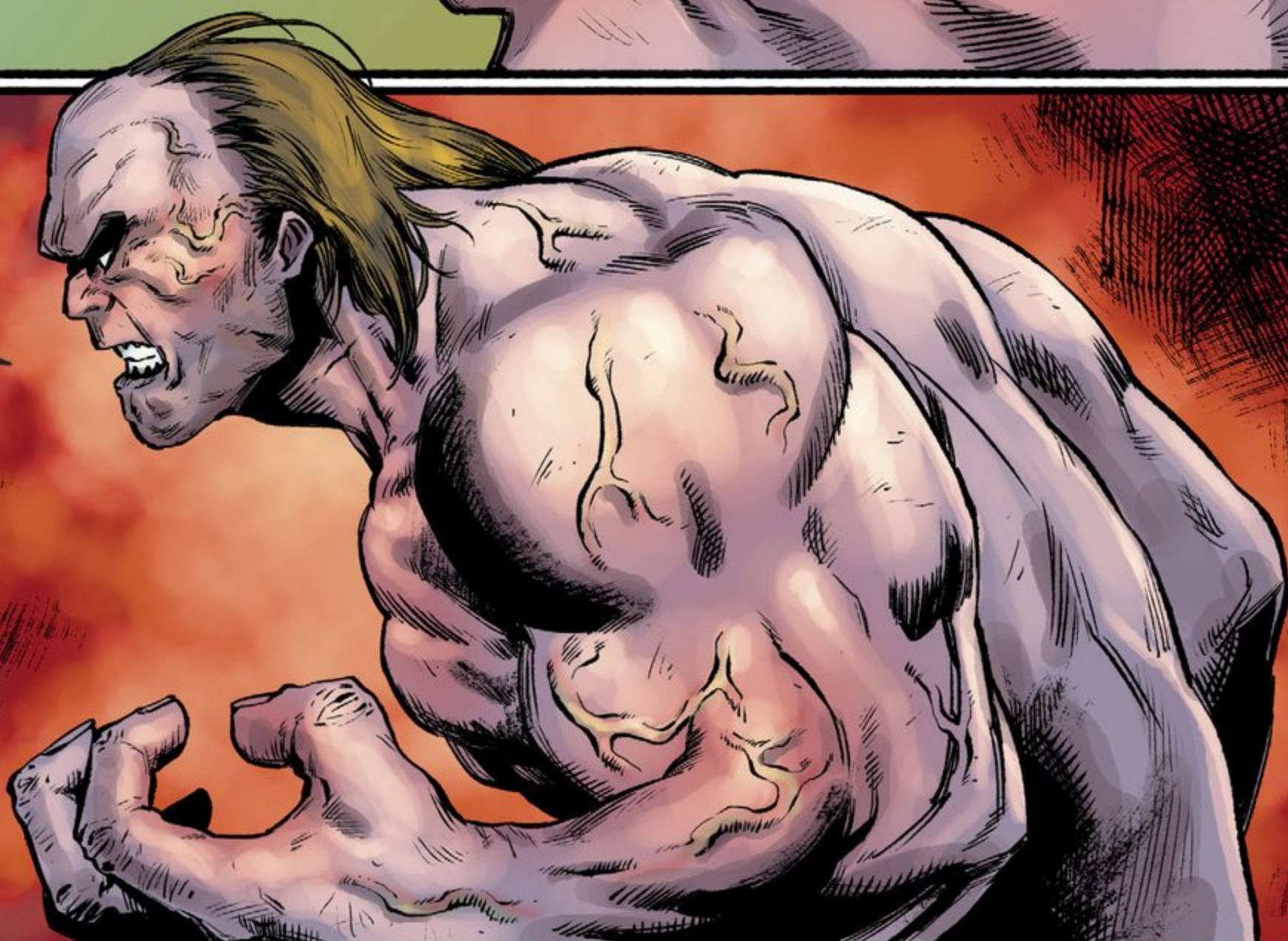
YEAH, A "SMUGGLER" OUTTA GOTHAM. SPECIALIZES IN RARE ANIMAL PRODUCTS.

I'M FAMILIAR.

SHARK BOUGHT THE *MARCUS CASINO*. HE'S USING IT TO LAUNDER MONEY FROM SALES OF *ILLEGAL HIGH-TECH WEAPONS* FROM SOME OUTFIT CALLED *THE SECOND HAND*.



BASTARD BUYS 'EM OFFSHORE, AND THEN DROPS 'EM AT *THE TAIL'S END BAY* TO BE PICKED UP BY *DIRTY HARBOR POLICE* FOR A CUT OF THE PROFITS.

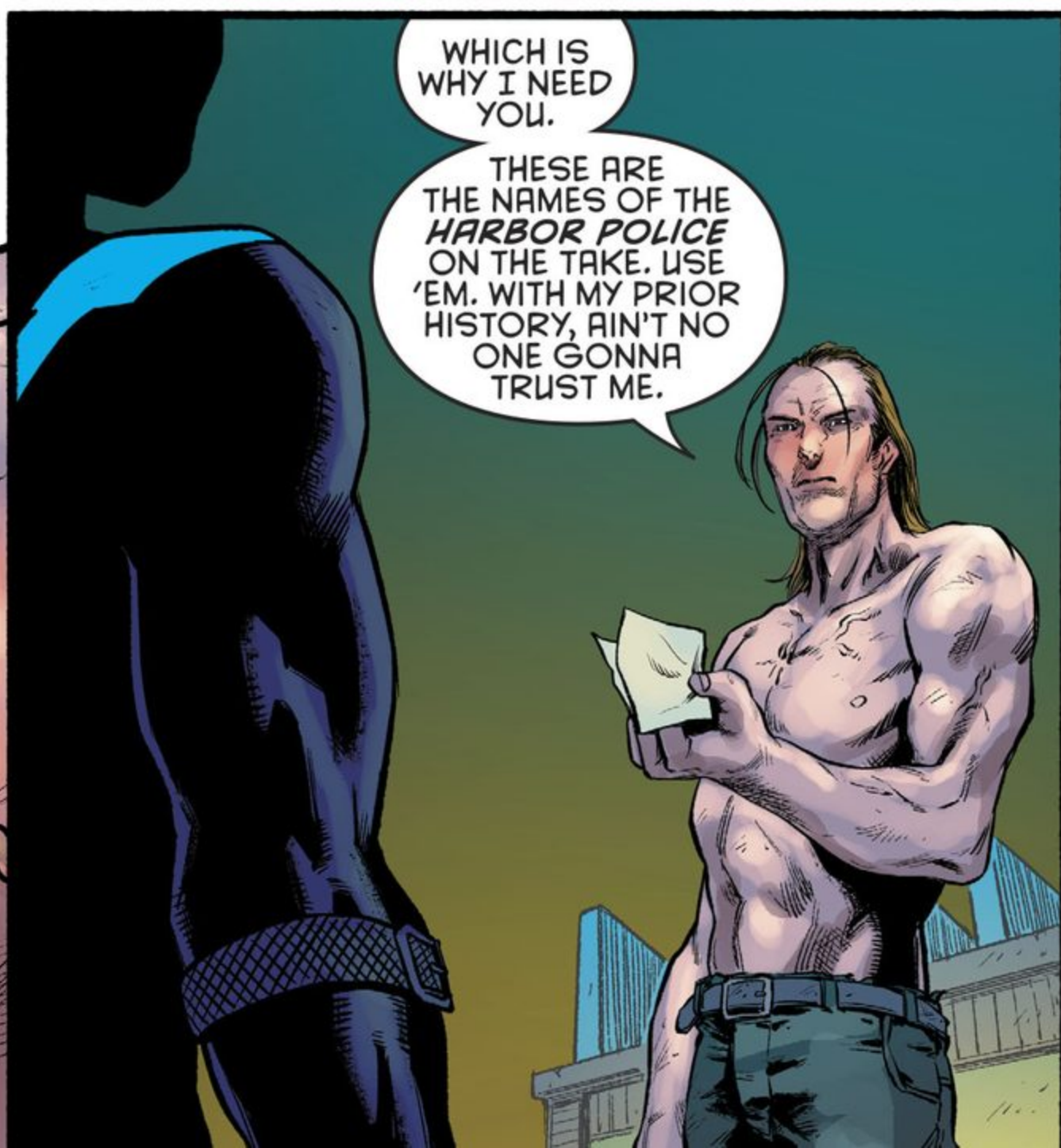


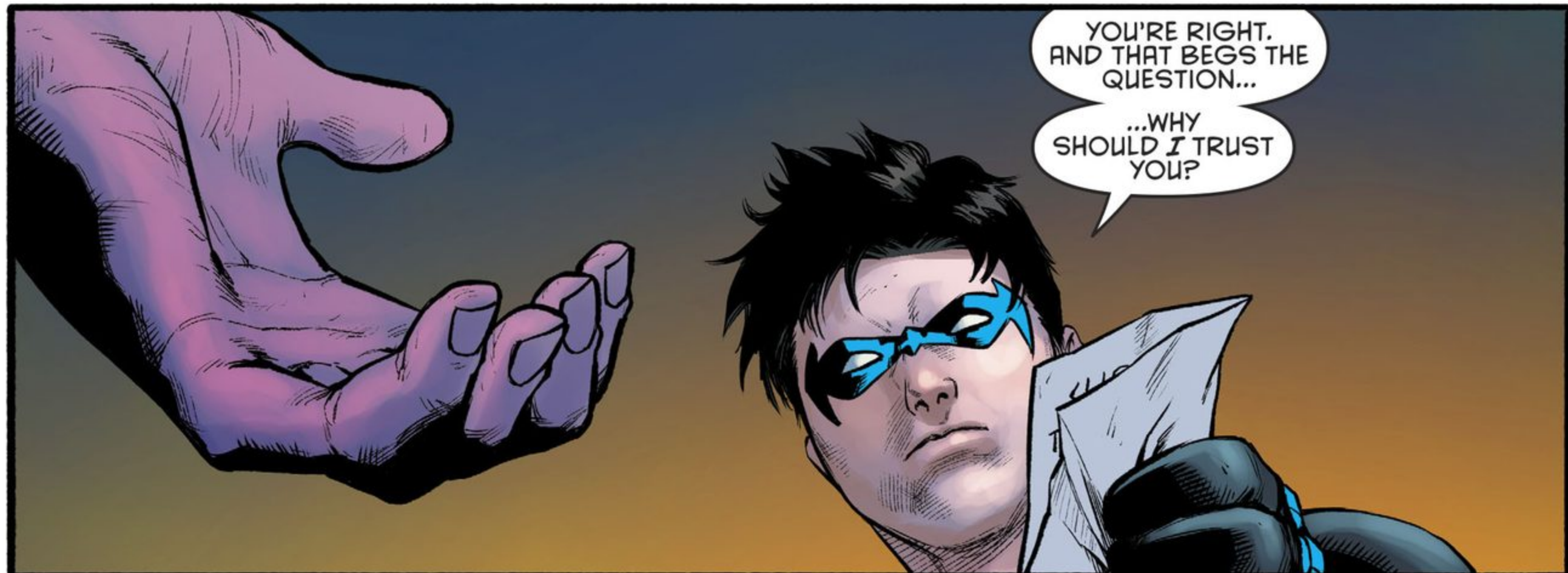
THEN HE DISPERSES 'EM TO OTHER CITIES. THIS OL' WHALING TOWN'S MAJOR EXPORT MIGHT NOW WELL BE DEATH RAYS.



WHICH IS WHY I NEED YOU.

THESE ARE THE NAMES OF THE *HARBOR POLICE* ON THE TAKE. USE 'EM. WITH MY PRIOR HISTORY, AIN'T NO ONE GONNA TRUST ME.





YOU'RE RIGHT.
AND THAT BEGS THE
QUESTION...

...WHY
SHOULD I TRUST
YOU?



BECAUSE SOME A' SHARK'S
GEAR IS STARTING TO SPILL
OUT ONTO THE STREETS IN
THE POOREST
NEIGHBORHOODS.

MY CITY IS
GETTING USED.
PEOPLE ARE
DYING.



AND THIS
IS JUST THE
BEGINNING.

HOLD
ON.

FZZZK ...VIOLENCE
AT MEADOWDALE
MALL. UNKNOWN
ASSAILANT. **KRZT**



I HAVE TO
GO.

IT'S
HAPPENING
AGAIN, ISN'T
IT?

IT'S UP
TO US, KID!
WE'RE THE ONLY
ONES...

"...WHO CAN STOP THIS CITY FROM BECOMIN' A WAR ZONE."

WHERE'D YOU GET THAT FRIGGIN' THING?!

A GUY TOLD ME IT FELL OFF THE BACK OF A TRUCK.

MEADOWDALE MALL.
BLÜDHAVEN'S MOSTLY ILLEGAL
BUT TOLERATED BLACK-MARKET.

WHY'D YOU TURN IT ON?!

I DUNNO... I THOUGHT MAYBE IT WAS ONE OF THEM TALKING LOVE DOLLS.

I WANTED TO HEAR WHAT SHE HAD TO SAY.

ACTIVATION IN ENEMY TERRITORY.

SHE'S A REAL ROMANTIC.

PROCEED TO ORIGIN.
ELIMINATE ALL ENEMY OBSTACLES.

TARGETING ENEMY.

SWITCH TO LOVE MODE!
SWITCH TO LOVE MODE!

I should be resting up.
Pressing my suit.

My girlfriend wants me to get a job. Something that'll keep my feet on the ground.

CHROOM

So far my résumé includes: circus performer, sidekick, superhero and secret agent.

RUN. TAKE EVERYONE YOU SEE WITH YOU. AND IN THE FUTURE, DON'T BUY STRANGE ROBOTS.

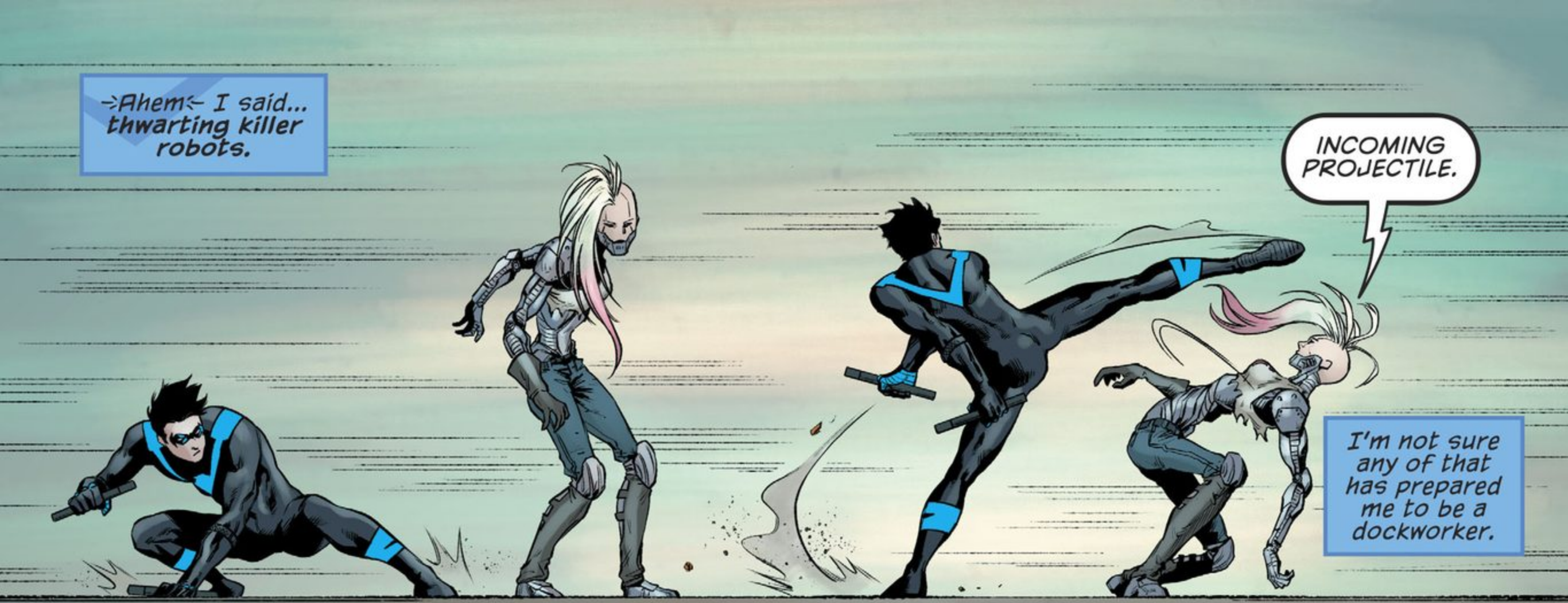


INITIATE SCORCHED-EARTH PROTOCOL.

Most of my previous life experience involves running across rooftops, punching super-villains...

...and thwarting killer robots.

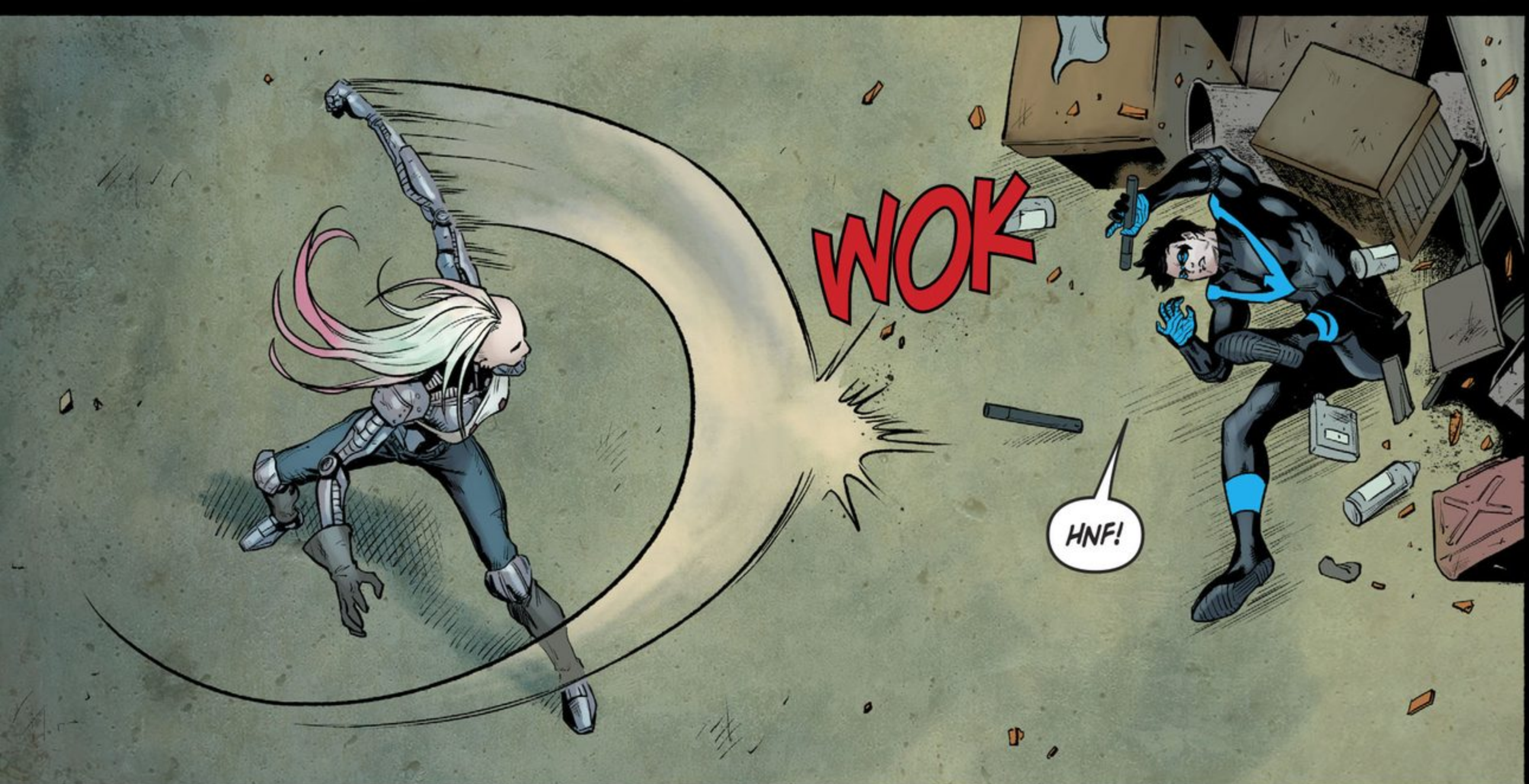
INCOMING PROJECTILE.



->Ahem<- I said...
thwarting killer
robots.

INCOMING
PROJECTILE.

I'm not sure
any of that
has prepared
me to be a
dockworker.



WOK

HNF!



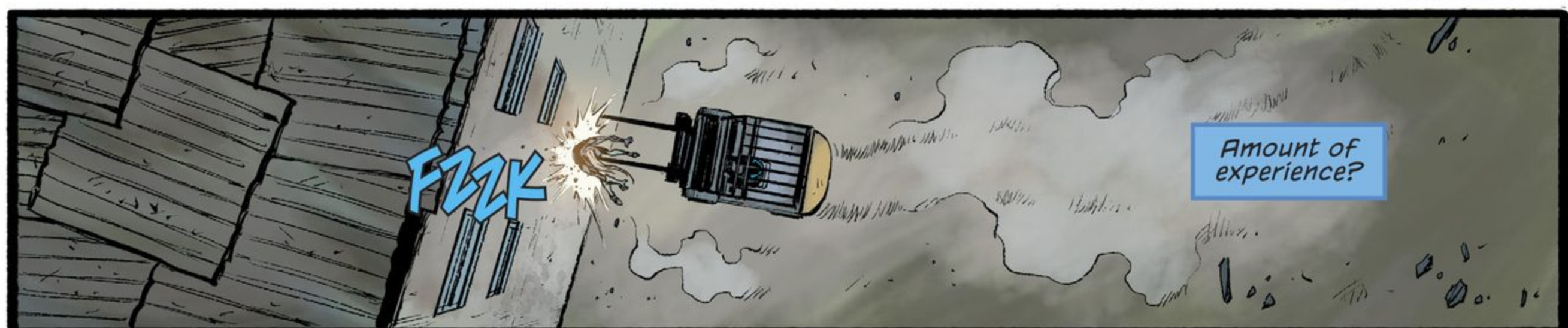
Maybe I need
to goose the old
résumé a little.
Learn a new skill.



I know...

Forklift operator.

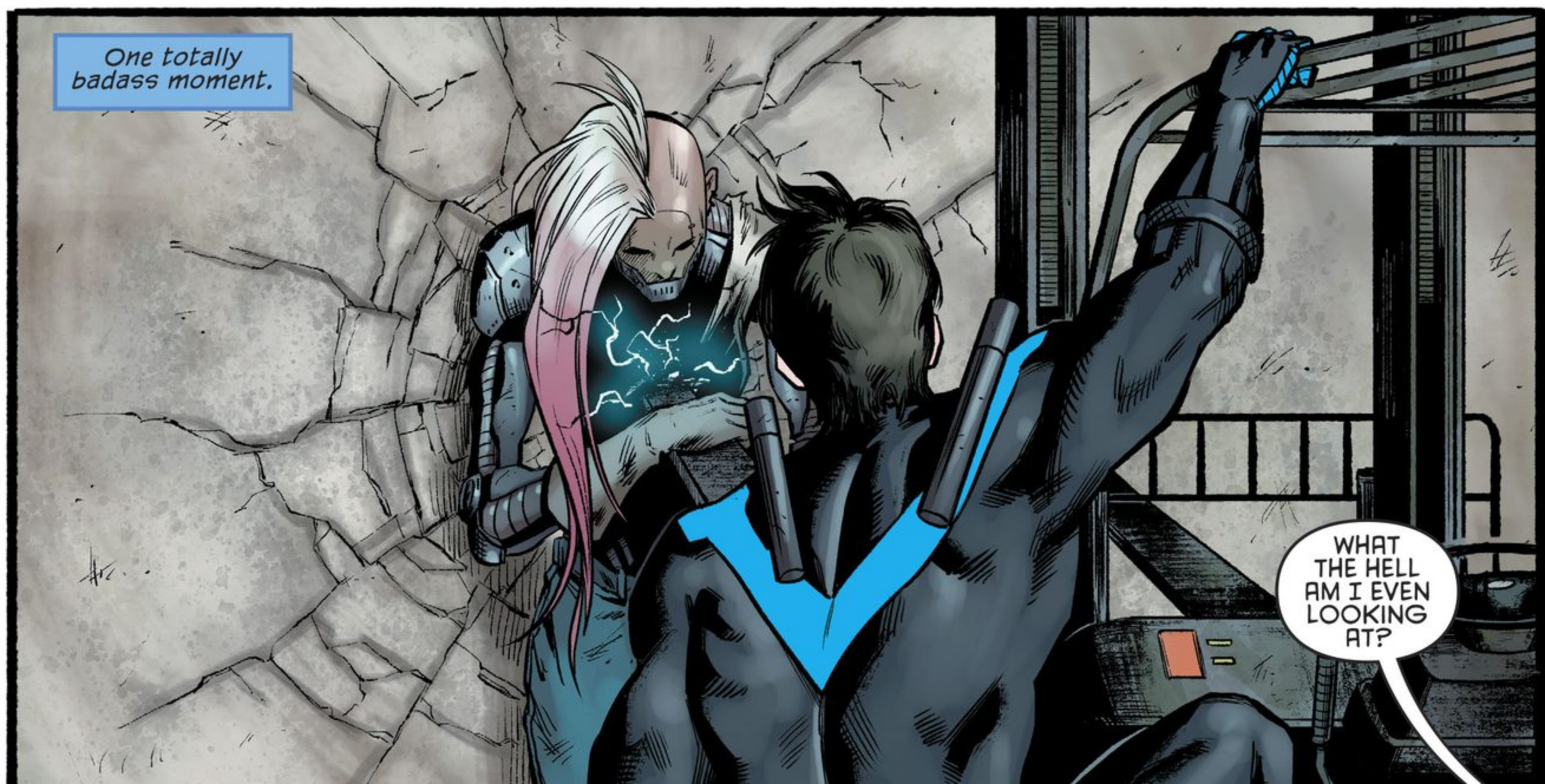
RRNCH



FZZK

Amount of experience?

One totally badass moment.



WHAT THE HELL AM I EVEN LOOKING AT?



THAT, *DETECTIVE SVOBODA*, IS AN *ALGORITHM-MODEL* WAR-DROID.

WHAT'S IT DOING SHOOTING LASERS IN THE MALL AND PULLING ME OFF MY TACO BREAK?



SERIOUS MILITARY HARDWARE LIKE THIS IS BEING BROUGHT INTO BLÜDHAVEN BY SMUGGLERS. SOME OF IT IS BLEEDING INTO THE STREETS.



ONE OF MY SOURCES SAYS THE COPS ON THIS LIST HAVE BEEN *HELPING* THE PERPETRATORS.

BUT THE SOURCE ISN'T EXACTLY A *TRUSTED* ONE.



I NEED YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE DEPARTMENT. COULD ANY OF THESE GUYS BE DIRTY?

Hm. LET ME SEE.

THAT'S NONE OF YOUR DAMN BUSINESS.



PEOPLE ARE GOING TO GET KILLED, ELISE. I HELPED YOU ON THE *JAMES NICE* CASE. HELL, I LET YOU TAKE THE CREDIT.



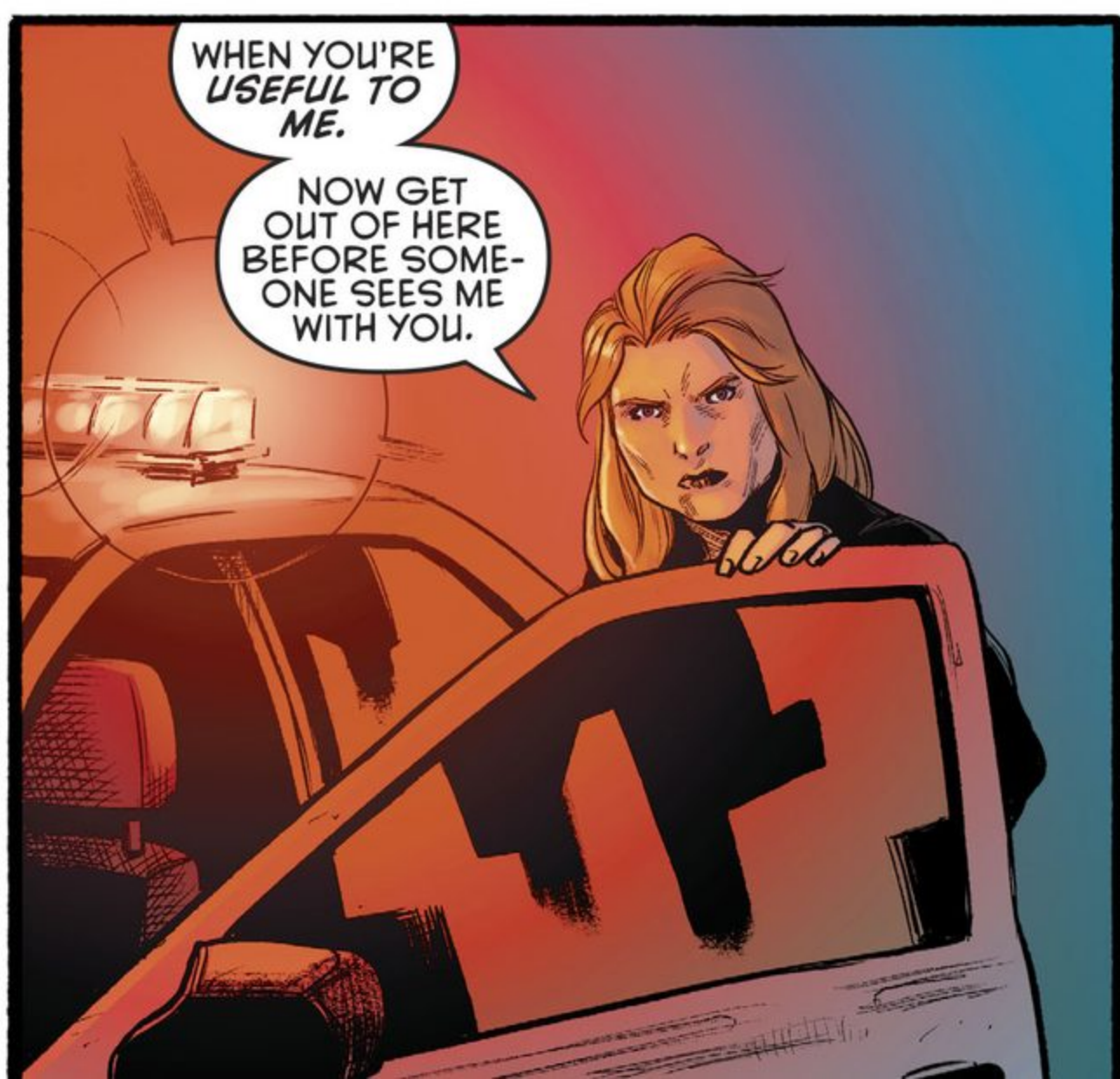
YOU OWE ME!

WHAT DO YOU THINK OUR RELATIONSHIP IS?
DO YOU THINK THAT YOU'VE EARNED MY *RESPECT*? THAT I NOW CONSIDER US *EQUALS*?



YOU COME TO MY TOWN, DO MY JOB FOR FREE, GET IN MY WAY AND FACE NO CONSEQUENCES. WE'RE *NOT* FRIENDS. THIS ISN'T AN EQUAL GIVE-AND-TAKE.

I DON'T OWE YOU A DAMN THING. I DEAL WITH YOU IN ONLY *ONE* TYPE OF SITUATION.



WHEN YOU'RE *USEFUL* TO ME.

NOW GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE SOMEONE SEES ME WITH YOU.

THE HAVEN
COMMUNITY CENTER.

YES, WE
DID BUY A VIDEO
GAME SYSTEM WITH
DISCRETIONARY
FUNDS.

MA'AM, WITH ALL
DUE RESPECT, IF WE
WANT TO KEEP KIDS OUT
OF TROUBLE, WE HAVE
TO GIVE THEM SOME-
THING TO DO--

OKAY, FINE...
I'LL RETURN IT.
YES. THANK YOU,
MA'AM.

GAH!
DAMN CHEAP-
SKATE SHORT-
SIGHTED CRAPSACK
POLITICIANS!

GLAD TO
BE BACK, I
SEE, DIRECTOR
TSANG?

IT'S--
I'M FINE,
DICK.

HOW'D
THE INTERVIEW
GO? AM I DATING
A SEXY LONG-
SHOREMAN?

SHAWN...
I DIDN'T
GO.



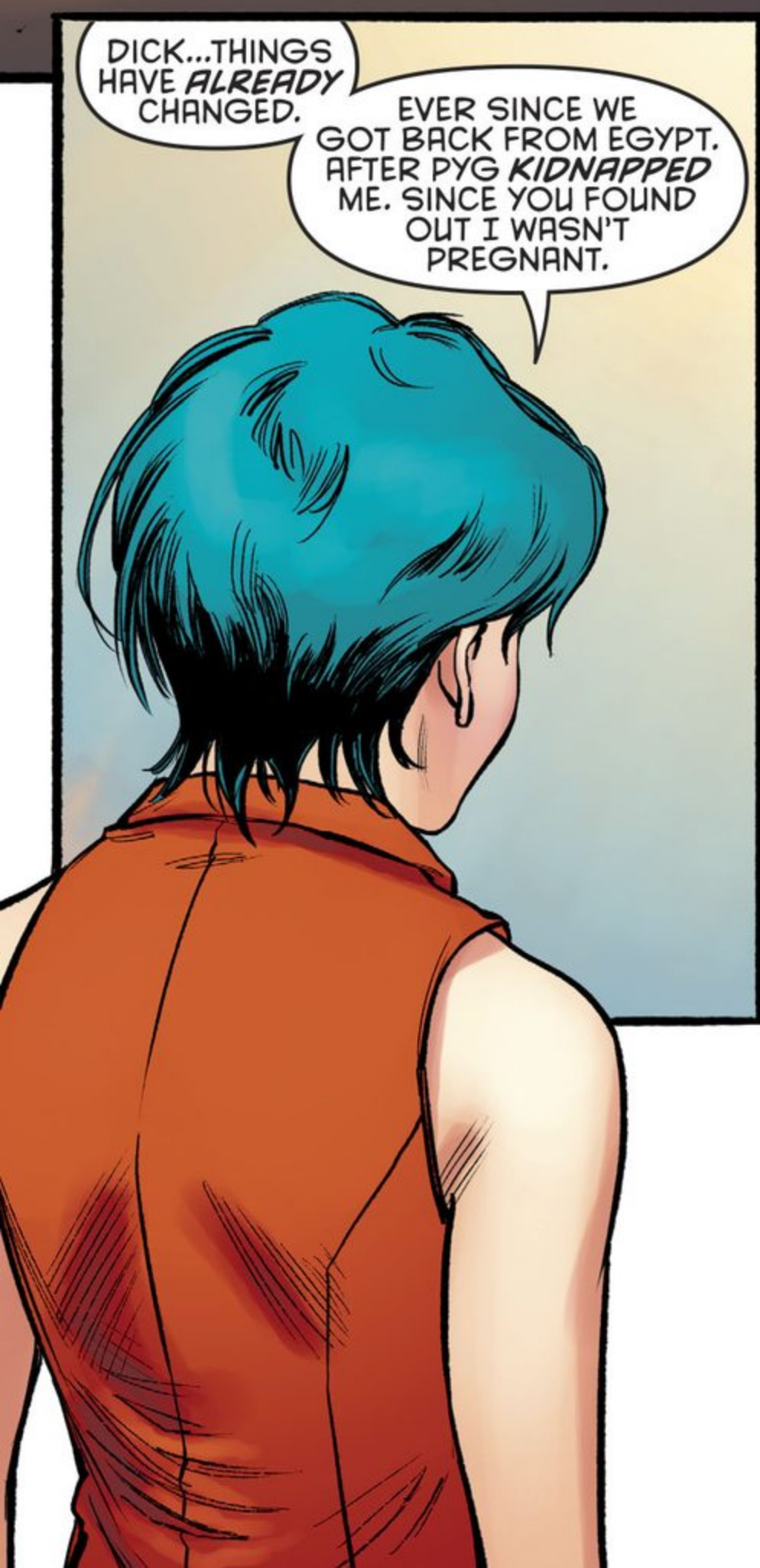
I KNOW, BUT I WAS OUT SO LATE LAST NIGHT. AND WITH ALL THE GANG VIOLENCE GOING ON, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE MORE IMPORTANT TO MEET WITH THE KIDS TODAY.



YOU HAD TIME TO GO TO ONE MEASLY JOB INTERVIEW. THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT, GRAYSON. YOU KNOW IT AND I KNOW IT!



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHY DO YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT THIS? WHY DO YOU THINK I NEED SOMETHING TO KEEP ME HERE? WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO CHANGE?



DICK...THINGS HAVE *ALREADY* CHANGED.

EVER SINCE WE GOT BACK FROM EGYPT. AFTER PYG *KIDNAPPED* ME. SINCE YOU FOUND OUT I WASN'T PREGNANT.



SHAWN...

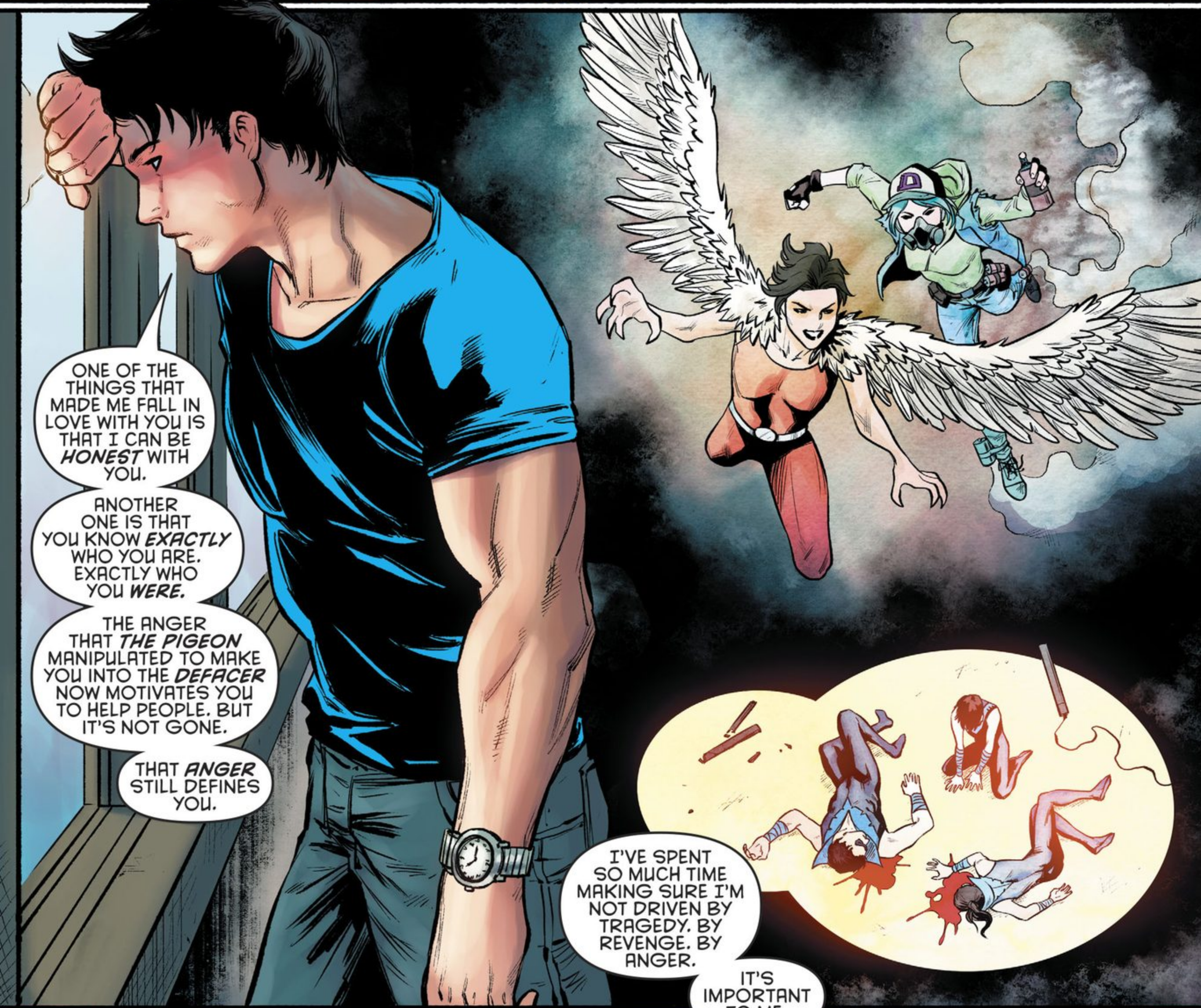
AT FIRST I THOUGHT YOU WERE DISAPPOINTED. THAT PART OF YOU WANTED TO HAVE A KID. THAT BEING WITH *ROBIN* REMINDED YOU OF THAT.



BUT I DON'T THINK THAT'S IT.

I THINK YOU WERE *RELIEVED*.

SO RELIEVED THAT YOU *SCARED* YOURSELF.



ONE OF THE THINGS THAT MADE ME FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU IS THAT I CAN BE **HONEST** WITH YOU.

ANOTHER ONE IS THAT YOU KNOW **EXACTLY** WHO YOU ARE. EXACTLY WHO YOU **WERE**.

THE **ANGER** THAT **THE PIGEON** MANIPULATED TO MAKE YOU INTO THE **DEFACER** NOW MOTIVATES YOU TO HELP PEOPLE. BUT IT'S NOT GONE.

THAT **ANGER** STILL DEFINES YOU.

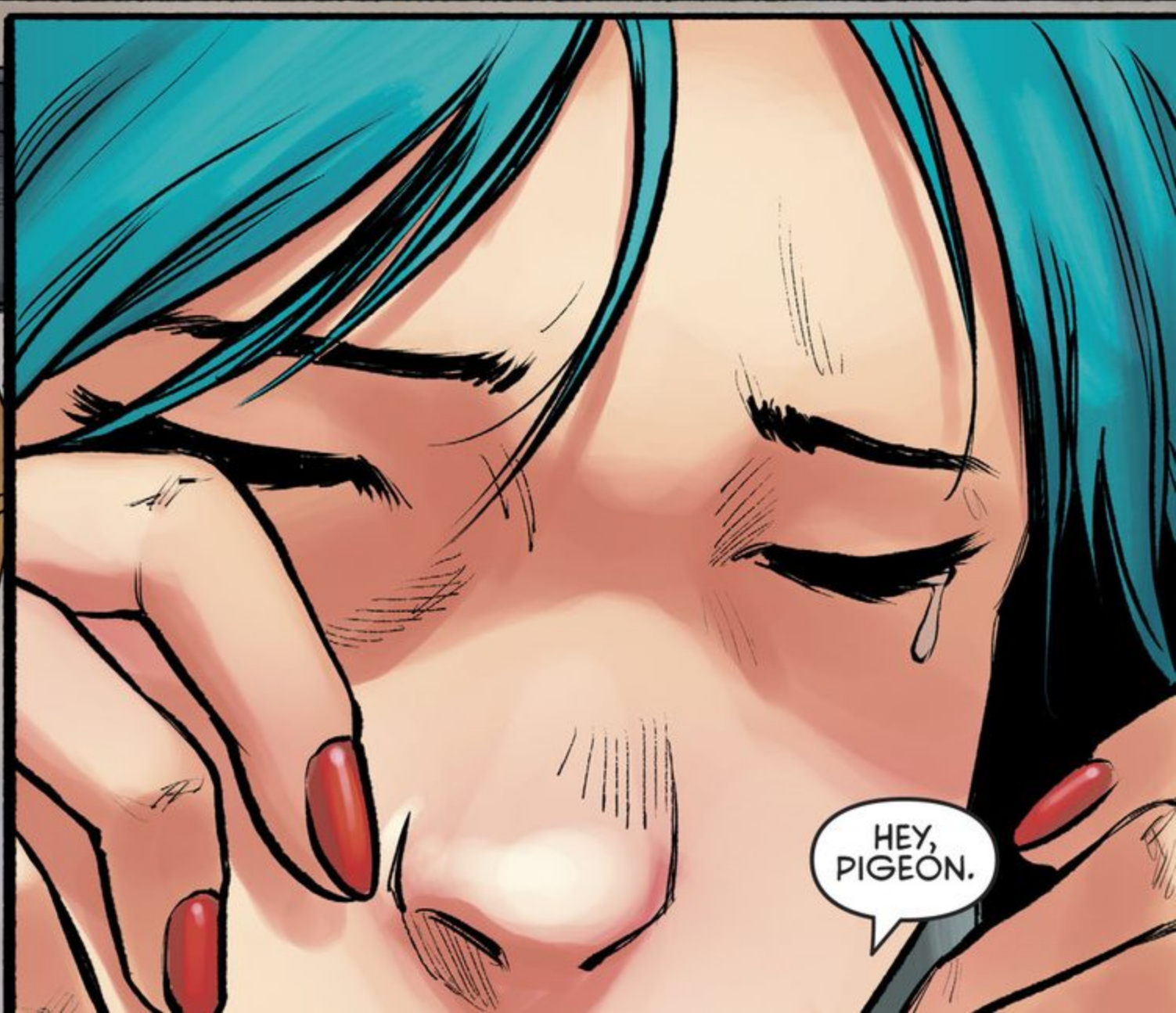
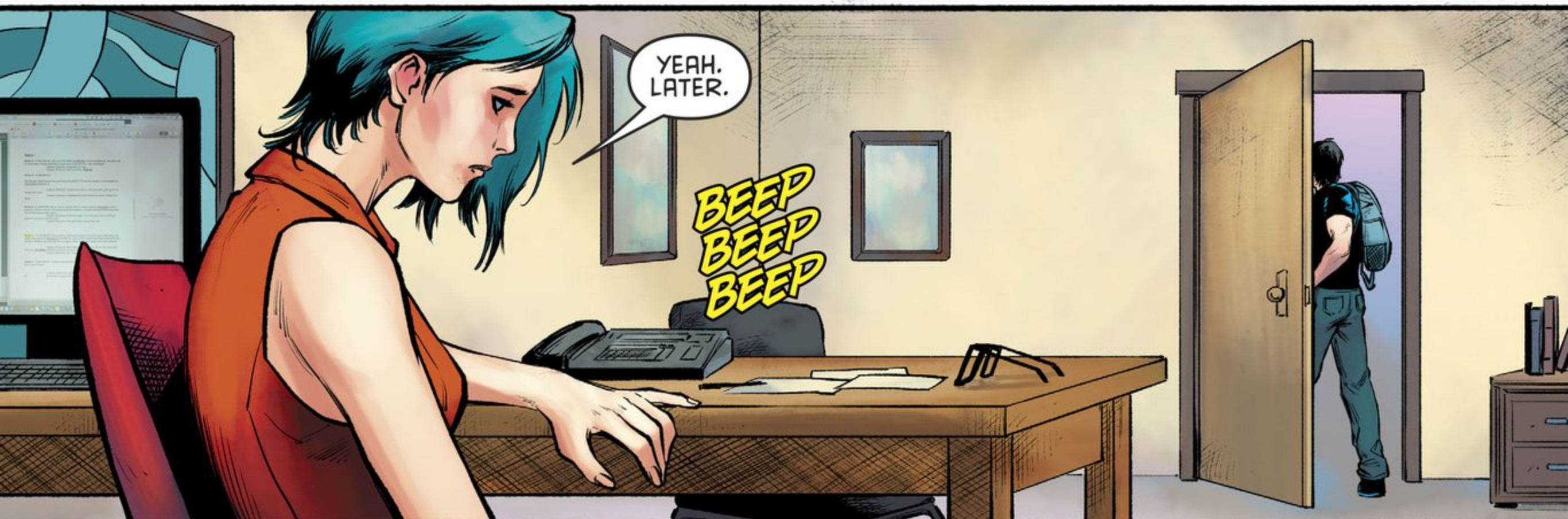
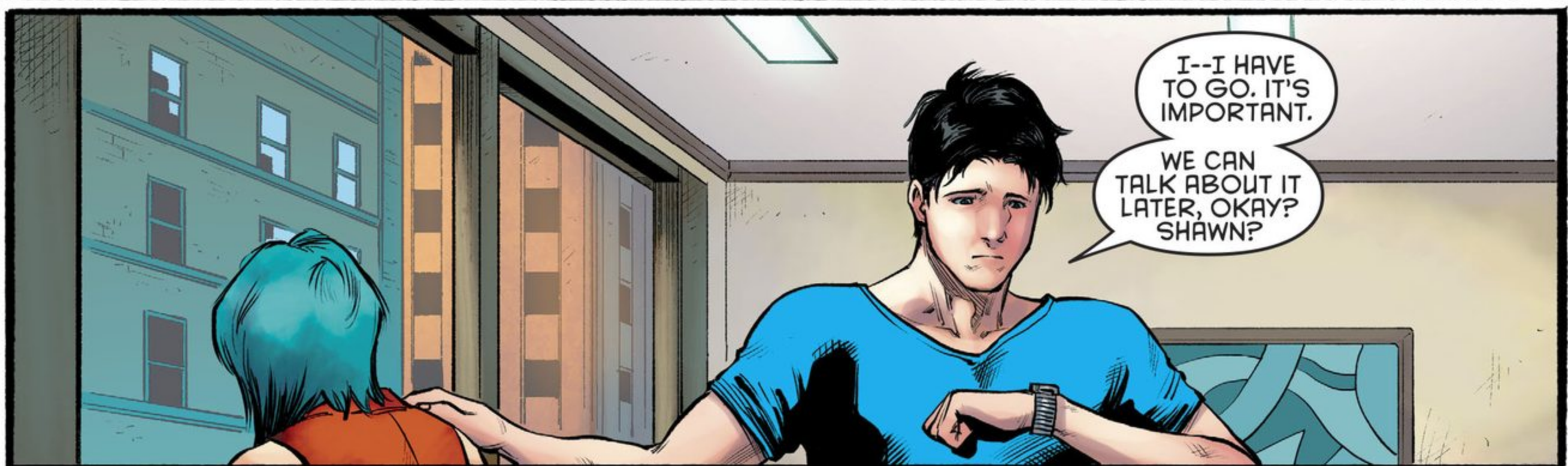
I'VE SPENT SO MUCH TIME MAKING SURE I'M NOT DRIVEN BY TRAGEDY. BY REVENGE. BY **ANGER**.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME.

HAVING THAT PREGNANCY SCARE AND EVERYTHING WE WENT THROUGH, MADE ME REALIZE I WANT MY CHILD TO LEARN THAT FROM ME.

BUT SOMETIMES... SOMETIMES I WONDER IF OUR KID WOULD LEARN THE **OPPOSITE** FROM YOU, SHAWN.





TAIL'S END BAY.

First I had an argument with Detective Svoboda. And then that uncomfortable conversation with Shawn.

It says something that the best talk I've had recently was with a guy who turns into a monster.

But if Roland Desmond is right, **Charlie Dulcover** and **Griffin Bratt** are drawing more than just a BPD paycheck.

If they're picking up shipments in the bay, they'd need a location that's quiet and out of sight.

Like that for instance, **Ambergris Island**, a massive partly sunken whaling ship that the city never got around to cleaning up.

Except this looks less like a pickup and more like a drop-off. Evidence-locker crates.

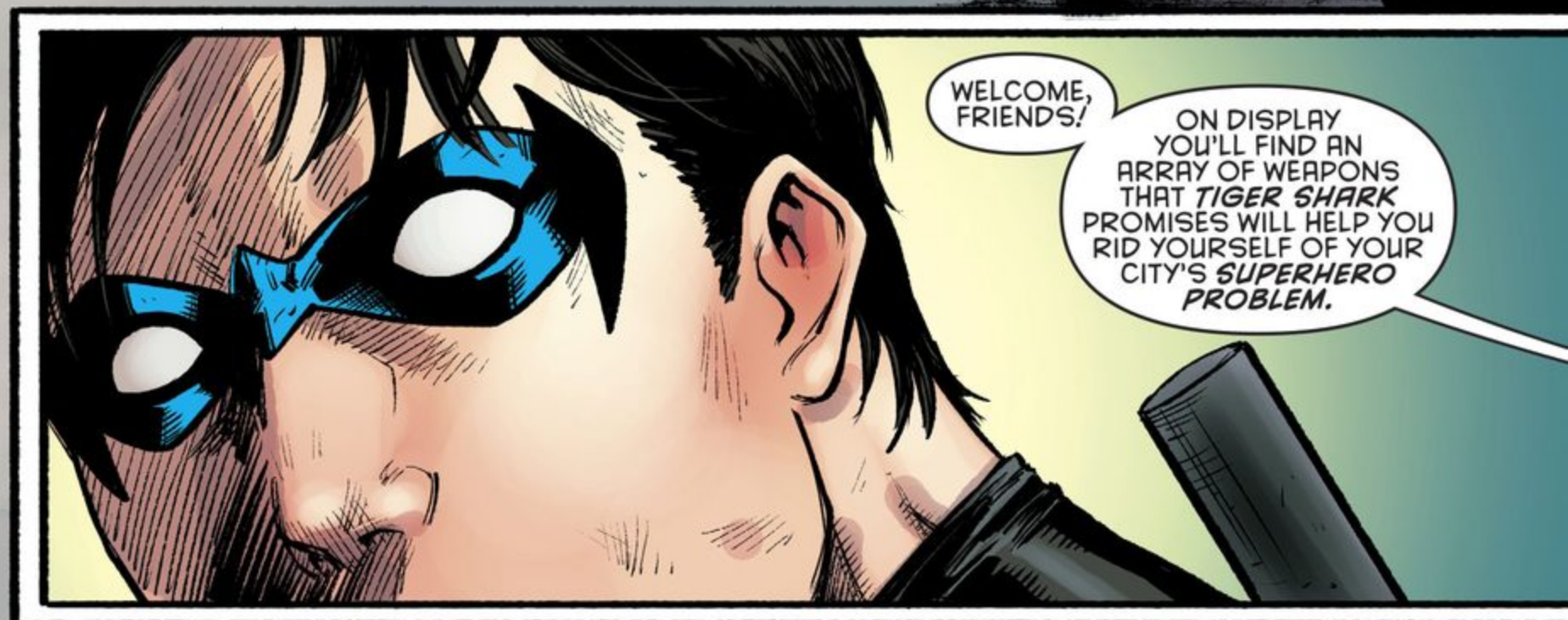
THINK THE GUESTS WILL MIND IF I SAMPLE ONE OF THE PARTY FAVORS?

Party favors? Who goes to a party in a rusting iron death trap?





...for bad guys.



WELCOME, FRIENDS!

ON DISPLAY
YOU'LL FIND AN
ARRAY OF WEAPONS
THAT **TIGER SHARK**
PROMISES WILL HELP YOU
RID YOURSELF OF YOUR
CITY'S **SUPERHERO**
PROBLEM.



AND IN
FRONT OF YOU?
A SUPERHERO TO
SAMPLE THOSE
WEAPONS
ON.

THAT
ENOUGH SKIN
FOR YA, TIGER
SHARK?

ENOUGH
FOR THIS GAME,
MR. DESMOND.

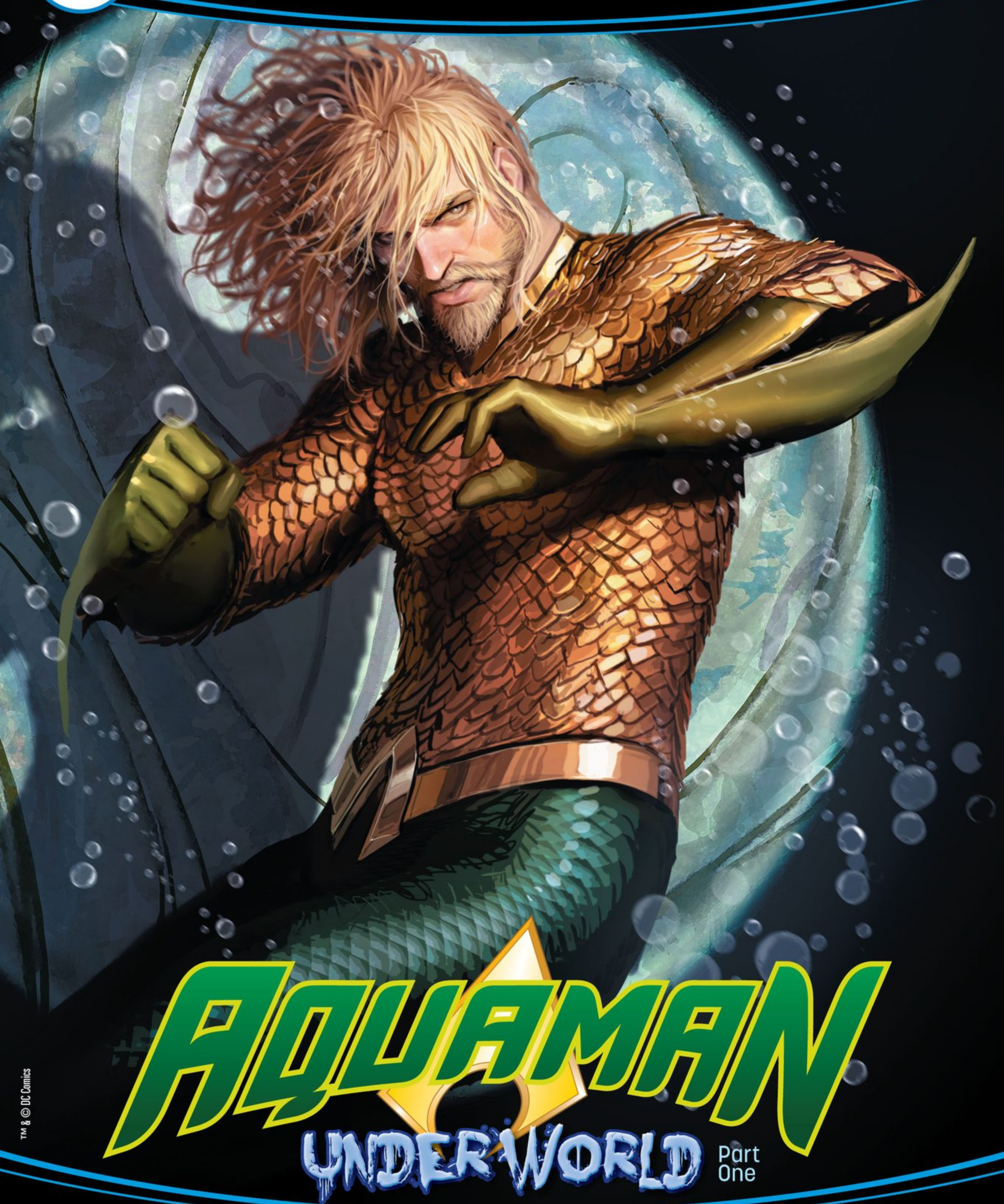
HEY, KID.
THANKS FOR
TAKING THE
JOB.

NEXT: THE NIGHT OF ONE HUNDRED SUPER-VILLAINS!

DC UNIVERSE REBIRTH



THE KING IS DEAD. LONG LIVE THE KING.



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A NEW STORY ARC BEGINS IN THE SUPERSIZE ANNIVERSARY ISSUE #25!

WRITTEN BY **DAN ABNETT** ART BY **STJEPAN SEJIC**

MONTHLY
BEGINNING IN

JUNE

A full-page comic book illustration for Aquaman #25. At the top, Aquaman is shown from the waist up, wearing his golden Atlantean armor and holding his trident. He is looking down towards the city below. The background is a deep blue ocean with bubbles and light rays. In the lower half, the city of Atlantis is depicted as a sprawling, glowing metropolis built into the dark, rocky walls of a deep trench. The city is illuminated with warm yellow and orange lights, contrasting with the cool blues of the water. Various Atlantean structures, including domes and spires, are visible. In the foreground, a large, dark, mechanical claw or part of a ship is visible on the right, and a large, purple, tentacle-like structure is on the left. The overall atmosphere is one of mystery and grandeur.

AQUAMAN #25

SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW

The Ninth Tride

THE NINTH TRIDE IS SOCIALLY AND LITERALLY THE LOWEST QUARTER OF ATLANTIS.

THEY SAY THE NEW KING WAS BORN HERE, AND THE HARD LIFE OF THE NINTH BRED IN HIM A HATRED OF THE SURFACE WORLD AND AN IRON WILL TO SUCCEED.

IT STRADDLES, AND FALLS SHEER INTO, THE CARNAC ABYSS THAT SPLITS THE CITY-STATE NORTH TO SOUTH, A RELIC OF THE CATASTROPHE THAT SANK ATLANTIS.

HERE THE CITY CLINGS LIKE CORAL TO THE CLIFF WALLS OF THE TRENCH.



THE PEOPLE OF THE NINTH TRIDE REFER TO THEMSELVES AS HADALIN, THE WORD FOR THE ORGANISMS OF THE SUNLESS ZONE THAT LIVE OFF ORGANIC MATTER SINKING FROM ABOVE.

THE NAME BEGAN AS A SLUR, BUT IS NOW WORN WITH PRIDE. THE HADALIN, LIKE THEIR BOTTOM FEEDER NAMESAKES, TOIL TO KEEP THE SEAS CLEAN.



AND NOW THEY TOIL TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE DONE DURING THE LAST ATTACK ON ATLANTIS.

I WORK TO RAISE STONE AND REBUILD. IT IS HONEST LABOR.



NO ONE TROUBLES ME. I KNOW NO ONE. I HAVE NO FRIENDS. NO ACQUAINTANCES.

NO ONE LOOKS TWICE AT ME. JUST ANOTHER ITINERANT WHO'S COME TO THE NINTH FOR WORK.

MY HOME IS A RUIN, ABANDONED AFTER THE WAR. NO ONE HAS COME BACK TO CLAIM IT, SO I HAVE MADE IT MINE.



I HAD A DREAM OF ATLANTIS ONCE.

THEN I AWOKE, LOOKED UP AND FOUND THE DREAM WAS GONE.



KING CORUM RATH IS A *USURPER*. HE STEERS ATLANTIS INTO *PARANOID ISOLATION*.



KING ARTHUR KNEW THAT!

WE DIDN'T ALWAYS SEE EYE TO EYE, BUT ARTHUR UNDERSTOOD THAT OUR FUTURE IS BOUND *IRREVOCABLY* TO SURFACE--

KING ARTHUR IS *DEAD*, VULKO.



YES. *MURDERED* BY THE ROYAL GUARD. BUT RATH MUST *NOT* REMAIN ON THE THRONE. HE'S A *FUNDAMENTALIST*. HE'S A *TERRORIST*. HE WILL TAKE US INTO A WAR THAT WILL *END* US.

THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOU TO COME HERE, FROM ALL PARTS OF THE CITY. I KNOW *EACH* OF YOU IS SYMPATHETIC TO--



WHAT ARE YOU *SUGGESTING*, OLD MAN? WE OVERTHROW HIM?

GAH! THE DRIFT WILL HAVE US ALL *BEHEADED* AS TRAITORS!



NO ONE CAN *LEAVE*, VULKO! ONLY THOSE WITH SPECIAL PERMIT FROM THE KING *HIMSELF* CAN PASS THROUGH THE *CROWN OF THORNS* THAT SURROUNDS ATLANTIS!

WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE. WE NEED HELP FROM *OUTSIDE*!



FACE THE TRUTH, VULKO. WE ARE ALONE IN THIS.

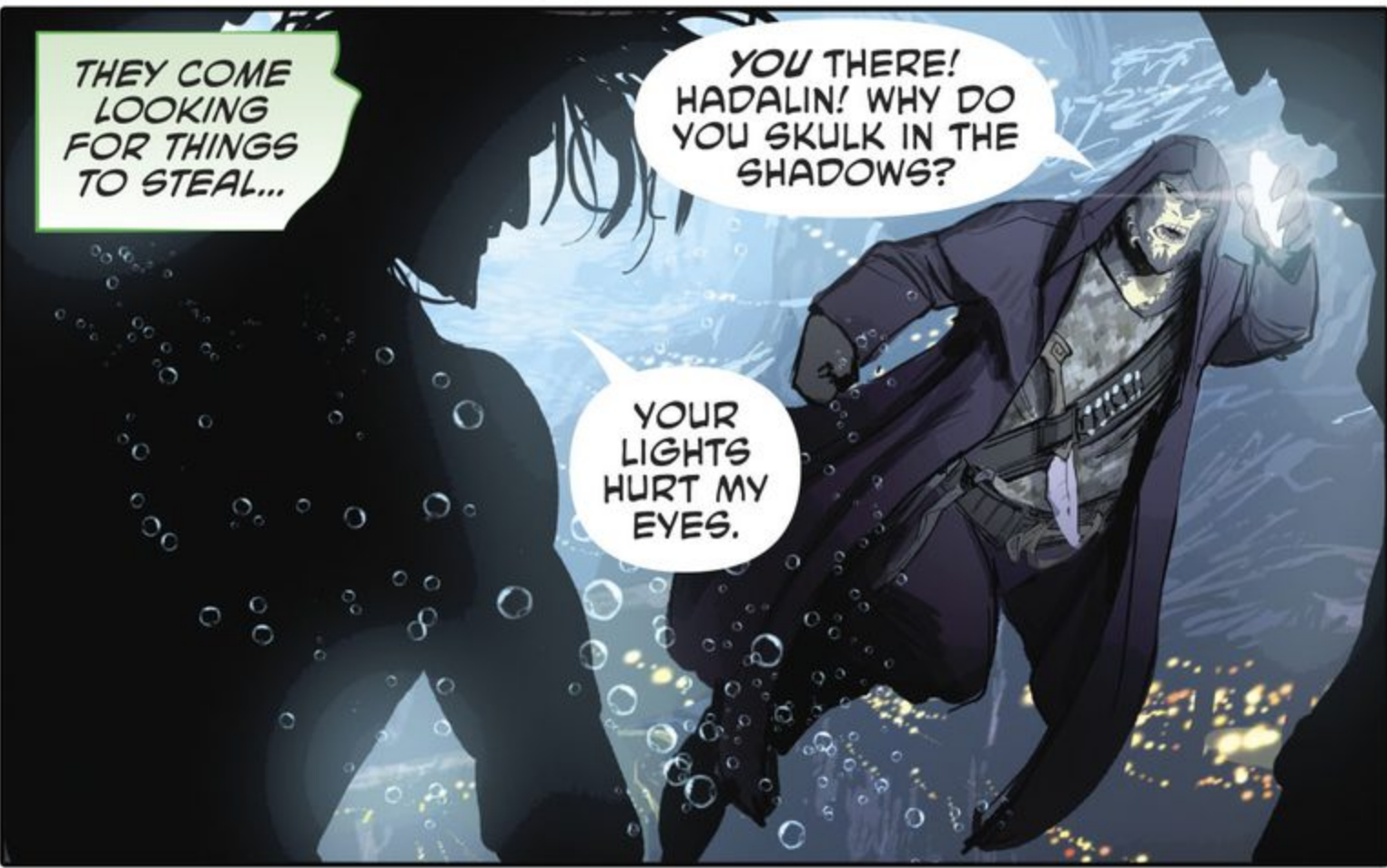
THE NINTH HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SAFE HAVEN FOR THE LOST AND NEGLECTED.



IT IS A PLACE OF
REBELS AND
ICONOCLASTS, A
SANCTUARY FOR
UNDESIRABLES.

THE NINTH
HAD BEEN A
LAWLESS
ZONE...

...BUT SINCE
THE CORONATION,
ENFORCEMENT GANGS
OF THE LOCAL CRIME
LORDS HAVE TAKEN
TO PATROLLING IT
LIKE THEY OWN
THE PLACE.



THEY COME
LOOKING
FOR THINGS
TO STEAL...

YOU THERE!
HADALIN! WHY DO
YOU SKULK IN THE
SHADOWS?

YOUR
LIGHTS
HURT MY
EYES.

DO YOU HAVE
COINS? TRINKETS
OF VALUE? OLD
THINGS FROM
BEFORE THE
SINKING?



WORTHLESS
FOOL. I
SHOULD
JUST GUT
YOU.

I HAVE
NOTHING.

YOUR
FACE SEEMS
FAMILIAR.
WHAT IS
YOUR
NAME?



ORIN.

HMM.

I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF YOU, HADALIN. WE DON'T LIKE TROUBLE IN THE NINTH, AND YOU LOOK LIKE A TROUBLE-MAKER TO M--

HEY! HARAK! WE GOT ONE!

YOU'LL KEEP, HADALIN.

THEY'VE SIGHTED SOME OTHER POOR UNFORTUNATE.

IT WASN'T ME THEY WERE LOOKING FOR. NOT THIS TIME.

I'VE BEEN DEAD FOR WEEKS.

To be continued in
AQUAMAN #25
on sale in JUNE

DC UNIVERSE REBIRTH



WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN A BAD MAN TURNS GOOD?
JUSTICE WITH ATTITUDE.



DEATHSTROKE

DEFIANCE

Part One

THE NEW STORY LINE STARTS IN ISSUE #21!

MONTHLY
BEGINNING IN

JULY

WRITTEN BY CHRISTOPHER PRIEST
ART BY DIOGENES NEVES & CARLO PAGULAYAN



BATMAN:

THE WAR OF JOKES AND RIDDLES

The Joker and Riddler are going to war this summer! In a new 8-part epic storyline, *New York Times* best-selling writer Tom King and sensational artist Mikel Janín will shape the past and future of the DC Universe! This upcoming arc is set during the early days of Batman's career. Batman may think he understands the pain and power of Gotham, but when the war comes, he will discover just how little he actually knows.

What could pit these two super-villains against each other?

According to King, "The Joker and the Riddler clash—neither one wants the other to destroy the Dark Knight and rob them of the satisfaction. This causes a gang war to erupt that divides and destroys Gotham City while Batman is caught in the middle trying to keep the city safe."

Whose side will Killer Croc, the Ventriloquist, Two-Face, Mad Hatter and Scarecrow choose?

What will happen when the chaos of the Joker and the logic of the Riddler clash? If that weren't enough, you won't want to miss the destruction unleashed when Batman's Rogues Gallery goes to war with itself—get ready for Deadshot vs. Deathstroke, Solomon Grundy vs. Killer Croc, and many more!

Will the Dark Knight rise from the carnage or finally fall?



IT ALL BEGINS IN
BATMAN #25
 A **SUPERSIZE**
 ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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